

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON MARINE PLANNING

The Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) received an update from Mike Conroy and Kerry Griffin summarizing relevant topics from the Marine Planning Committee's (MPC's) February 2, 2023 meeting, [G.3.a, MPC Report 1](#), and anticipated content of a Supplemental MPC Report focused on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM's) Renewable Energy Modernization Rule. The HMSAS supports and endorses the comments and recommendations from the MPC Reports with the following additions:

Oregon Call Areas:

The HMSAS recommends the Council submit a letter to BOEM asking BOEM to rescind the Oregon Call Areas.

The MPC Report acknowledged a number of suggestions that BOEM should rescind the Call Areas and start the process over utilizing available tools, such as the NCCOS spatial suitability model. This would assist in identifying least conflicted areas for which to establish future Call Areas. This would also allow additional time to fill data gaps (e.g., recreational albacore fishing effort), increase the likelihood of finding potential areas for offshore wind development where co-existence is possible, and conduct the necessary public engagement with potentially impacted stakeholders.

We further suggest that BOEM consider all waters off the Oregon coast, including those beyond 1,300m while incorporating a 20-mile exclusion zone surrounding offshore banks and seamounts that are important to commercial and recreational HMS fisheries.

Fisheries Datasets:

The HMSAS recommends the Council support the fisheries data as presented by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and recommend its inclusion in the spatial suitability model as a constraint. We also recommend the Council acknowledge and indicate support for BOEM working closely with the State departments of fish and wildlife (DFWs) and NMFS to include the agencies' specialized fisheries analysis expertise.

We intentionally expand the scope to cover all three coastal states' DFWS as we believe the product of the ODFW & NMFS collaboration is a model that should be replicated in future planning efforts off Washington and California. We want to acknowledge and offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to Dr. Caren Braby, Lilah Ise, Kelly Andrews, Frank Pendleton and the countless others who have spent numerous hours ensuring that our datasets are complete and available for planning purposes.

As noted above, there are data gaps that exist that should be filled in advance of determining suitable sea space. The HMSAS had a detailed conversation whether the commercial and/or charter boat albacore fishing data is a reasonable proxy for recreational fishing effort and dependence. We were unable to reach a conclusion due to a lack of subject matter expertise. It was acknowledged the recreational albacore fishery is an important economic driver for Oregon's recreational fishing economy. It was also acknowledged that recreational fishing vessels are typically smaller than commercial or charter vessels, so it is logical to assume that areas closer to shore are utilized by those fleets compared to those depicted on the two slides on page 10 of MPC Report 1. Addressing that data gap is important and we suggest ODFW and NMFS convene meetings with that sector to better understand if the charter boat datasets are a valid proxy for recreational fishing effort.

Renewable Energy Modernization Rule:

The HMSAS supports the Council submitting a comment letter on the proposed rule addressing the topics raised in the MPC Supplemental Report.

Regarding decommissioning, we fully support and endorse the portion of the [Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel Report](#) on this Agenda Item. Regarding the remaining items, we fully support and endorse the content of the Supplemental MPC Report.

PFMC
03/08/23